

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application.

Listing of Claims:

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently amended): An implant for implanting into a patient's articular surface, said implant comprising:

a body portion having a load bearing surface and a bone-contacting surface, said load bearing surface defining a recess and having a curvature that is based on the curvature of said patient's articular surface; and a load bearing surface, said surface comprising a body portion and an insert having a load bearing surface having a curvature that substantially matches the curvature of the load bearing surface of said body portion, said insert is configured to be disposed within said recess, said insert comprising a resiliently deformable material configured to deform and at least partially absorb a load force being placed upon said load bearing surface of said insert.

2. Cancelled

3. (Currently amended): The implant according to claim 1 2, wherein said recess comprises an undercut and said insert comprises a protrusion at least partially received in said undercut.

4. Cancelled

5. Cancelled

6. (Original): The implant according to claim 1, wherein said body portion comprises a metallic material.

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7. (Currently amended): The implant according to claim 1, wherein said ~~insert~~ resiliently deformable material comprises a hydrogel material ~~polymeric material~~.

8. Cancelled

9. (Currently amended): The implant according to claim 1, said implant providing a replacement articular surface comprising at least a portion of said load bearing surface of said body portion and said load bearing surface of said insert.

10 – 21. Cancelled

22. (Withdrawn): A method of producing a composite implant comprising:
providing an implant body comprising a recess, said recess including an undercut;
providing an insert adapted to be at least partially received in said recess, said insert comprising a protrusion adapted to be received in said undercut; and
installing said insert in said recess.

23. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 22, wherein providing said insert comprises molding said insert.

24. (Withdrawn): The method according to 23, wherein molding said insert comprises injection molding.

25. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 22, wherein providing said insert comprises cutting said insert from a body of stock.

26. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 22, wherein installing said insert in said recess comprises positioning said protrusion at least partially in said undercut.

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27. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 22, wherein said implant body comprises a first member and a second member, said first and second members defining a recess therebetween.

28. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 27, wherein installing said insert in said recess comprises disposing said insert between said first and second members.

29. (Withdrawn): A method for producing a composite implant comprising:
providing an implant body comprising a recess, said recess including an undercut;
introducing a polymeric material into said recess; and
at least partially solidifying said polymeric material.

30. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 29, wherein introducing a fluid polymeric material comprises injecting a molten polymeric material into said recess.

31. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 29, further comprising providing a mold portion adjacent said recess, thereby defining a molding cavity defined by said recess and said mold portion.

32. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 29, wherein introducing said polymeric material comprises introducing a powdered polymeric material, the method further comprising heating said polymeric material.